

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 10-11 have been amended. Claims 6-9, 12-16 and 18-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to encompass the elected species. Accordingly, claims 10-11 have been amended to properly refer to the elected species. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 10-11 can be found throughout the specification and in the original claims, for instance, in Example 1 and in original claims 7-8, 10-11, and 17. Accordingly, no new matter has been added as a result of the amendments to the claims.

II. Allowable Claims

The Examiner allowed claim 17. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-11 would be allowed if they were amended to include the elected species. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10-11 so as to incorporate the elected species, and have canceled claims 6-9. Consequently, claims 1-5 and 10-11 are now in allowable form. Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to allow claims 1-5 and 10-11.

III. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as allegedly being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Pfeil et al. (Glycobiology (2000) Vol.10, No. 8, pages 803-807) ("Pfeil"). However, the Examiner stated that claim 1 would be allowed if amended to incorporate the elected species. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elected species, and as the Examiner stated that the elected species are free of prior art, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is therefore moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection based on Pfeil is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

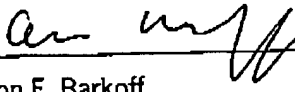
The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Pfeil. However, the Examiner acknowledged that Pfeil does not teach specific ionic strengths for the buffers. As discussed above, the Examiner indicated that claim 1 would be allowed if amended to incorporate the elected species. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elected species, and as claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and claims 6-8 have been canceled, the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejection based on Pfeil is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in allowable condition. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001 if the Examiner believes that this would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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